



Defined STEM brings relevance to the classroom through STEM connections, performance tasks and STEM simulations. Defined STEM also aligns all content to the “Common Core Standards” and the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework.”

For “Back to School” 2011, Defined STEM delivers new features and content to apply STEM understanding to more grade levels and by stressing the importance of literacy skills being built into the real world relevance discovery.

## Literacy Tasks

### Literacy Tasks:

The Literacy Tasks are a totally new way of thinking about and preparing all students to have the literacy skills they need to be college/career ready.

This is not a separate program or random selections of curriculum ideas. Instead, it is a literacy framework that connects Common Core standards with secondary Language Arts, social studies and science classrooms.

The Literacy Tasks will create student activities which will help develop their reading and writing skills in a cross-curricular fashion.

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Collaborating for the 21st Century Learner

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**Samples:** (note: these are abbreviated from the full lesson)

#### Literacy Task: Wind Energy

**Language Prompt:** **How should electronic recycling be regulated to provide for human safety nationally and internationally?**

After researching informational texts and background materials explaining the many how wind turbines work, the benefits of wind energy, and the economics involved with wind power, write a technical report detailing wind and how it could benefit a community. Support your discussion with evidence from your research. What implications can you draw for the potential findings?

#### Tier Three Vocabulary:

**Anemometer** - Measures the wind speed and transmits wind speed.

**Green energy/green power** - A popular term for energy produced from renewable energy resources.

**Literacy Task:** **How should global society address fresh water needs for the next 20 years?**

#### Language Prompt:

**Should the United Nations fund and support water reclamation projects in poor countries affected by a hot, arid climate?**

After researching technical and academic articles on water conservation, water reclamation, and usage around the world write a position paper that argues your position, pro or con, on how involved the United Nations should be on supporting water reclamation programs around the world.

#### Tier Three Vocabulary

**Carbonates** - The collective term for the natural inorganic chemical compounds related to carbon dioxide that exist in natural waterways.

**Demineralization** - a treatment process that removes minerals from water (waste) into reusable material; return (material) to a previous stage in a cyclic process.

